

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### 1980-81 DUCK STAMP CONTEST OPENS

The annual "Duck Stamp" contest for waterfowl art to adorn the 1980-81 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp will open July 1, 1979, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

Revenues derived from the sale of this stamp are the major source of funding for acquisition of critically needed habitat for the Nation's waterfowl populations.

The annual competition is the only art contest regularly sponsored by the Federal Government. The colorful stamps whose designs are selected through the contest constitute the longest running, annually issued series of stamps in revenue or postage stamp history.

Artists interested in submitting an entry should write to the Office of Audio Visual, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, for copies of the contest rules and an entry form.

Complete regulations governing the contest are published in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations - Part 91.

Entries will be accepted from July 1 until midnight, October 15, 1979. Only one entry per person will be accepted. Judging and selection of the winning entry, open to the public, will take place on November 8, 1979, at the Department of the Interior Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp was authorized and required by the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of 1934. Popularly known as the Duck Stamp, it is sold through local Post Offices and must be carried by every migratory waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older. All of the stamp revenues, beyond printing and handling costs, are used solely for the acquisition of additional habitat for ducks and geese. The \$7.50 stamp for 1980-81 will go on sale July 1, 1980.

Prior to 1949, wildlife artists were commissioned to provide the design for the Duck Stamp. Since that time, the design has been chosen through the contest--open to all artists who are citizens or residents of the United States.

The prestige of winning the contest has enhanced the reputations of established artists and has elevated otherwise unknown artists to public acclaim. The Federal Government offers no prize to the winner, but commercial wildlife art dealers in the past have been eager to market limited edition reprints for the winner.

The regulations, summarized in the contest rules that will be sent to each entrant, describe the technical specifications for designs created for the contest, the procedures to be followed in submitting an entry, the qualifications and selection of the judging panel, the criteria to be used in scoring entries, and the voting procedures to be followed by the judging panel.